(d) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to introduce any legislation to regulate and preserve such monuments of historical importance?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) there are 507 Centrally protected monuments in Karnataka which are under the Archaeological Survey of India. Besides, 672 monuments are under the protection of the State Department of Archaeology, Government of Karnataka.

(c) Provision exists in "The Mysore Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1961" and rules made there under to regulate unauthorized constructions and for restriction of property rights in the protected areas. Besides this, the State has another Act relating to heritage *i.e.* "Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority Act, 2002" which is related to management of the Hampi World Heritage site.

(d) The Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites & Remains Act, 1958 has been enacted for conservation of monuments of historical importance. Besides, there is a proposal under the Government's consideration to constitute a statutory Heritage Sites Commission.

Tricentenary Anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi

1422. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has requested for grant-in-aid from the Prime Minister Fund/Central Government for Tricentenary Anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi at Nanded city;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra has prepared a developmental plan of Rs.817 crores and has made a request for financial assistance to commemorate the Tricentenary of Gur-ta-Gaddi at the Sachkhand Gurudwara, Nanded.

(c) Since the event will be held in 2008, necessary action will be initiated in the proper forum, in due course of time.

Culture of Tamil Nadu

1423. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any initiatives to safeguard and promote culture of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard including the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India are making efforts for the advancement and propagation of Culture through various Schemes administered by the Ministry of Culture and institutions of the Ministry. The following are some of the activities that benefit Tamil Nadu:

Zonal Culture Centre, Thanjavur of Ministry of Culture have approved 23 programmes for the current financial year 2005-06.alloting an amount of Rs.18.07 lakhs to safeguard and promote the art and culture of Tamilnadu. Apart from approved programmes, several programmes are being arranged and conducted through National Cultural Exchange Programme, Special Programmes and Collaborative Programmes, Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme etc. Apart from this, a mega festival "Salangainaatham" conducted every year at Thanjavur in which hundreds of Craft persons are participating and about 350 artists of various art forms from all over India participate. For all these programmes, an amount of not less than 50 lakhs is spent every year.

Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi is supporting the culture of Tamil Nadu through disbursement of grants to cultural institutions, by way of organizing programmes/festivals/events/Seminars/workshops/exhibitions of music, dance, drama and puppetry. Akademi is presenting the Young Dancers' Festival from 8-12 August, 2005 at Chennai.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi is giving due share in its various activities for Tamil Nadu. Sahitya Akademi has published 350 titles in Tamil including